

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-08 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13
/082 W

-----011613Z 011033 /46

O R 011514Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7083

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05794

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, WB, GW, GE, UK, FR, US, UR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: CORRIDOR CLEARANCE FOR
GOODYEAR AIRSHIP

REFS: (A) STATE 69966; (B) USBER 892

1. EMBASSY CIVIL AIR ATTACHE HAS FORMALLY INFORMED THE
MANAGER OF INTERNATIONAL AIRSHIP OPERATIONS FOR GOODYEAR
BLIMP EUROPA, INC. THAT THE REQUESTED CLEARANCE HAS
BEEN DENIED. THE TEXT OF THE MARCH 31 LETTER TO
GOODYEAR IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

MR. RICHARD W. WIDDICOMBE

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GOODYEAR BLIMP EUROPA, INC.
1144 EAST MARKET STREET
AKRON, OHIO 44316

DEAR MR. WIDDICOMBE:

AS YOU PROBABLY HAVE HEARD BY NOW FROM MR. MAASS,

THE ALLIED CIVIL AIR ATTACHES REGRET THAT THEY CANNOT GRANT FINAL CLEARANCE TO THE AIRSHIP EUROPA TO VISIT BERLIN. ON MARCH 29, 1977, AFTER A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE MATTER, THE THREE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO ACT FAVORABLY ON YOUR APPLICATION.

I APPRECIATE AND REGRET THE CONSIDERABLE INCONVENIENCE THAT THIS HAS CAUSED YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES AND AM SORRY THAT I WAS NOT ABLE TO GIVE YOU A FINAL ANSWER EARLIER.

END TEXT.

2. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE PRESS INQUIRIES (REF B), THE TRIPARTITE (FRANCE, UK, US) BONN GROUP MEETING OF MARCH 31 AGREED THAT BERLIN MISSIONS SHOULD REFER PRESS INQUIRIES TO BONN AND THAT THE PRESS ATTACHES, NOT THE CIVIL AIR ATTACHES, OF THE THREE EMBASSIES WOULD BE THE PROPER RESPONDENTS. THE BONN GROUP REPS ALSO AGREED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE A COMMON FRONT AMONG THE THREE ALLIES, NOT TO ADMIT THAT THERE WAS DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG THEM AS TO THE ADVISABILITY OF PERMITTING THE FLIGHT, OR TO SUGGEST THAT THE FLIGHT WAS CANCELLED FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

3. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN AGREED UPON:

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A) IF THERE IS AN INQUIRY AS TO WHY CLEARANCE FOR THE

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13 /082 W

-----011613Z 011064 /46

O R 011514Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7084

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC USAF RAMSTEIN

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 05794

FLIGHT WAS NOT GRANTED, THE PRESS OFFICER WOULD REPLY
ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "THE THREE ALLIED GOVERN-
MENTS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTROLLING THE USE
OF THE AIR CORRIDORS TO AND FROM BERLIN. AFTER A
CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED FLIGHT OF THE GOODYEAR
AIRSHIP TO BERLIN, IT WAS AGREED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE
APPROPRIATE TO GRANT THE REQUESTED CLEARANCE."

B) IF ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT IT WOULD BE ILLEGAL
FOR AN AIRSHIP TO USE THE BERLIN CORRIDORS, THE
RESPONSE WOULD BE: "NO, IT WOULD BE LEGAL UNDER THE
PERTINENT QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS FOR AN AIRSHIP OF
ALLIED REGISTRY TO USE THE CORRIDORS."

C) IF A QUESTION IS RAISED AS TO WHET/HER THE FLIGHT
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WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF FEAR OF SOVIET OBJECTIONS, THE
RESPONSE WOULD BE: "TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE SOVIETS
WOULD HAVE NO BASIS FOR AN OBJECTION."

4. WE CONSIDER IT INEVITABLE THAT, IF THE PRESS TAKES
UP THE MATTER OR IF GOODYEAR CONTACTS ITS CONGRESS-
MEN, UNFORTUNATE PUBLICITY WILL RESULT. OUR EFFORT
HERE WILL BE ESSENTIALLY A DAMAGE-LIMITING ONE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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